

GEORGE A. ROMERO

EMPIRE OF THE DEAD

ACT THREE

ILLUSTRATED BY
ANDREA MUTTI

MARVEL 002

**PARENTAL
ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!**

A MESSAGE FOR THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT MAYOR CHANDRAKE

AS YOU ALL KNOW, IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE THE UNDEAD MENACE FIRST BEGAN TERRORIZING THE WORLD. UNDER MAYOR CHANDRAKE'S LEADERSHIP, NEW YORK CITY HAS BECOME A FORTRESS OF ISOLATION AGAINST THE UNDEAD PLAGUE.

CHANDRAKE'S GUIDANCE HAS KEPT US SAFE AND ALLOWED US, NEW YORK'S SECRET CABAL OF VAMPIRES, TO RETAIN OUR POWER AND CONTROL. HE'S EVEN INVESTING IN FINDING A WAY TO "TAME" THE UNDEAD THROUGH HIS SPONSORSHIP OF SCIENTIST **PENNY JONES** AND HER PRIZE ZOMBIE SUBJECT, **XAVIER**. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PROJECT HIT A SETBACK WHEN XAVIER WAS SHOT WHILE INTERFERING WITH OUR MEN PUTTING A STREET URCHIN NAMED JO ON A SCHOOL BUS TO OUR...RELOCATION PROGRAM. LUCKILY, XAVIER SEEMS TO BE RECOVERING QUICKLY--ALMOST TOO QUICKLY.

DESPITE ALL HE'S DONE FOR US, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE HIS REIGN END. **CHILLY DOBBS**, ONCE ONE OF US, IS RUNNING AN OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN BANKROLLED BY **RUNYON**, A KNOWN COMPATRIOT OF REBELS AND OTHER UNSAVORY TYPES.

ADDITIONALLY, AN INVESTIGATOR NAMED **PEREZ** AND THE ZOMBIE WRANGLER **PAUL BARNUM** HAVE BEEN GETTING CLOSE TO DISCOVERING SOME OF OUR MORE...DISCREET DEALINGS, INCLUDING OUR RELOCATION CAMPS.

KEEP NEW YORK SAFE. KEEP NEW YORK **OURS**. SPREAD THE WORD AND VOTE CHANDRAKE!



THE COMMITTEE TO RE-ELECT MAYOR CHANDRAKE MEMBERS:

GEORGE ROMERO WRITER **ANDREA MUTTI** ARTIST
RAIN BEREDO COLOR ARTIST **VC'S CORY PETIT** LETTERER
FRANCESCA MATTINA COVER ARTIST

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GOVERNMENT FARM.
UPSTATE NEW YORK.



I FEEL
LIKE OLIVER
TWIST.

OLIVER
WHO?

HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
YOUR
DICKENS?

HAD A
STEPPAD
WHO KICKED
THE DICKENS
OUTTA ME.



I MEAN **CHARLES
DICKENS**, THE
AUTHOR OF A NOVEL
CALLED "OLIVER
TWIST,"
WHICH WAS NAMED AFTER
ITS PRINCIPAL CHARACTER
WHO, IN A QUEUE MUCH
LIKE THIS, RECEIVED A
PITIFUL PORTION OF
GRUEL AND FAMOUSLY
ASKED FOR MORE.

WHO WOULD
EVER WANT
"MORE" OF THIS
SLOP?

SLOP IT IS,
BUT IT FILLS OUR
BELLIES, DOESN'T
IT? WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?

JOSEPHINA.
THEY CALL
ME JO.



HOW DO YOU
DO? MY NAME IS MILES.
SAME AS THE YOUNG LAD
IN "TURN OF THE SCREW."
OH, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU
DON'T KNOW HENRY
JAMES, EITHER.

IS HE
ANOTHER
AUTHOR?

ONE
OF THE
BEST!



OKAY, WELL...HAVE YOU
EVER HEARD OF ROGER
LANCelyn GREEN?

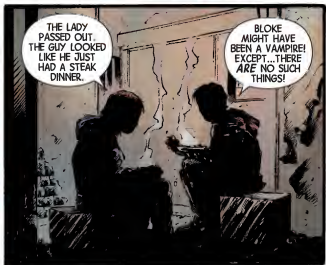
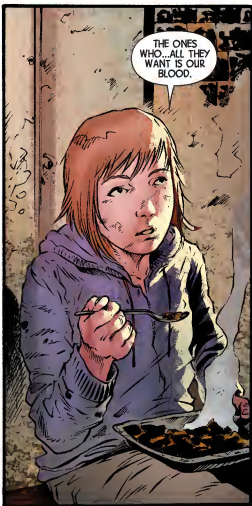
ER...CAN'T
SAY THAT I
HAVE.

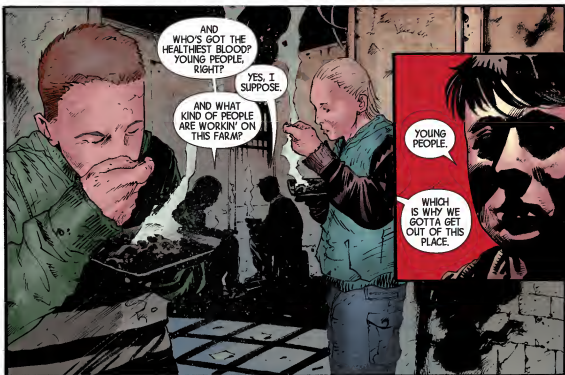
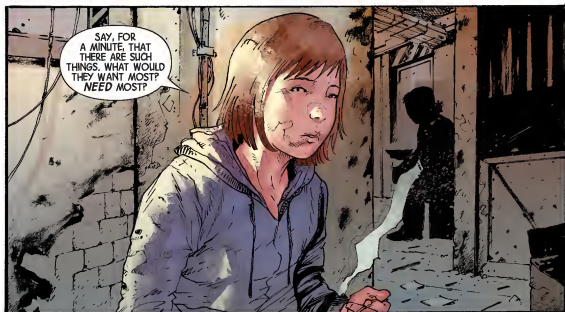
ONE OF THE
BEST! HE WROTE
"ROBIN HOOD." SEE?
I KNOW A THING OR
TWO ABOUT BOOKS.

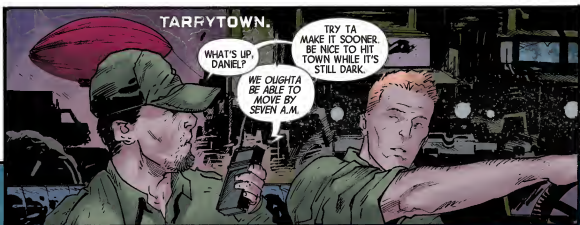


MY DAD...MY
REAL DAD...USED
TO READ TO ME.
BEFORE HE...
DISAPPEARED.

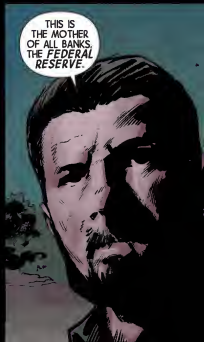


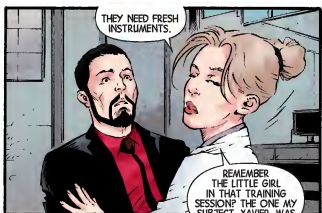
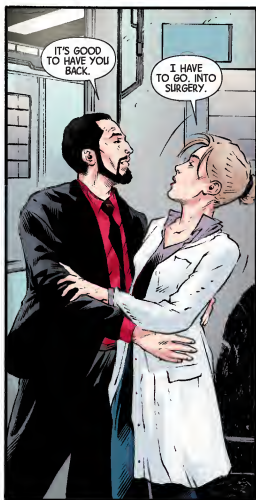




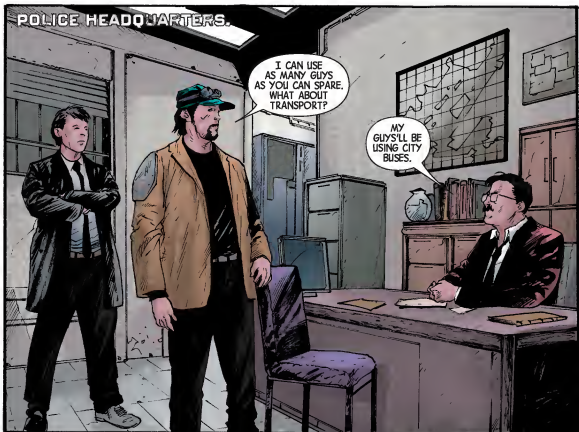


JUST OFF THE NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE.





POLICE HEADQUARTERS.



I CAN USE
AS MANY GUYS
AS YOU CAN SPARE.
WHAT ABOUT
TRANSPORT?

MY
GUYS'LL BE
USING CITY
BUSES.



MAKE
'EM SCHOOL
BUSES.

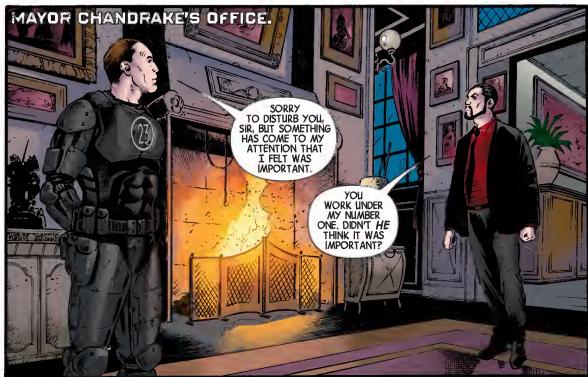


SMART.
IN SCHOOL
BUSES
THEY--



MIGHT
NOT SEE US
COMING.

MAYOR CHANDRAKE'S OFFICE.



SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, SIR, BUT SOMETHING HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT I FELT WAS IMPORTANT.

YOU WORK UNDER MY NUMBER ONE. DIDN'T HE THINK IT WAS IMPORTANT?

I, ER...DIDN'T ASK HIM, SIR. I'M TAKING...INDEPENDENT ACTION HERE.



YESTERDAY MORNING, SIR. MURRAY AVENUE.

397 MURRAY, PAUL BARNUM'S ADDRESS.

THE FACT THAT YOU BROUGHT ME THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS, I TRUST...

STRICTLY BETWEEN US, SIR.

GOOD. A TIME MAY COME WHEN I WILL ASK YOU TO...DO ME ANOTHER SERVICE.

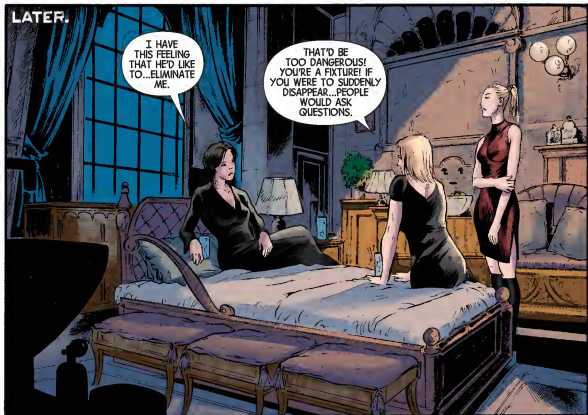
YOU CAN ALWAYS RELY ON ME, SIR.



LATER.

I HAVE
THIS FEELING
THAT HE'D LIKE
TO...ELIMINATE
ME.

THAT'D BE
TOO DANGEROUS!
YOU'RE A FIXTURE! IF
YOU WERE TO SUDDENLY
DISAPPEAR...PEOPLE
WOULD ASK
QUESTIONS.



DON'T
WORRY, IF HE
TRIES TO PULL
ANYTHING WE'LL
BLOW THE
WHISTLE.

YEAH, WE'RE
FINISHED WITH
CHANDRAKE, JUST
LIKE YOU
ARE.



"FINISHED?"

I AM
THE ONLY
ONE WHO IS
ALLOWED TO BE
FINISHED
WITH
ANYBODY!

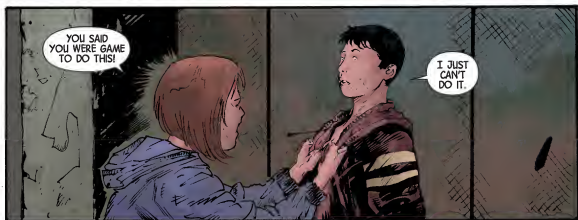


GOVERNMENT FARM.



WE'RE
ALMOST
THERE.

I'M NOT
SURE THIS IS
SUCH A GOOD
IDEA.



YOU SAID
YOU WERE GAME
TO DO THIS!

I JUST
CAN'T
DO IT.



WIMP! I'M
SCRAMMIN'
YOUR LOSS.

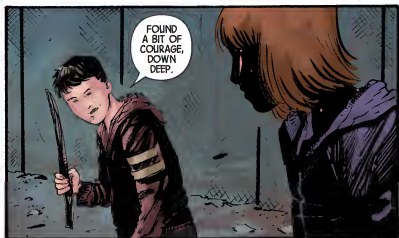
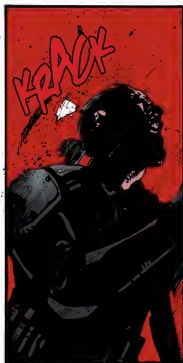


ALMOST
THERE.



ALMOST...









YOU!



THIS
CREEP KILLED
MY BEST
FRIEND!



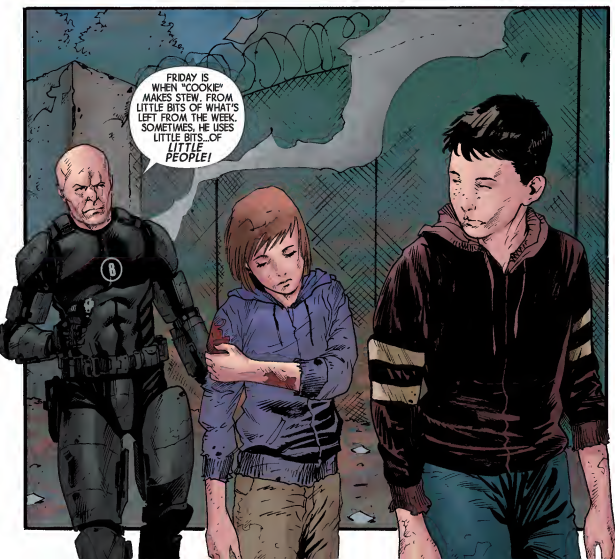
CRUNCH



YEEEOUCH!

HOW DO YOU
LIKE THAT, YOU
COCKROACH?





CHILLY DOBBS' SECRET
ELECTION HEADQUARTERS.

WHAT IS
THE STORY HERE?
EVERYBODY IS HAVING
A SNOOZE!

YOUR
CANDIDATE
DOZED
OFF.

I CANNOT
BELIEVE THAT
THIS CHADROOL HAS
FALLEN ASLEEP ON
THE JOB.

I SHOULD
NEVER, ON THIS GUY,
HAVE BLOWN SO MUCH
AS I DID. I AM GREATLY,
AS THE HEBREWS SAY,
"FATOOTZED." DO YOU
HAVE ANYTHING LEFT INSIDE
YOUR BOOT THAT MIGHT,
BY CHANCE, GIVE ME
SOME RELIEF?

I STAKED
MOUNTAINS OF
LETTUCE ON THIS GUY.
BUT IT IS NOT THE
LETTUCE THAT HAS ME
"FATOOTZED." IT IS THE
IDEA THAT I PICKED
THE WRONG HORSE!
HOWEVER, I AM
FORTUNATELY
LUCKY.

LUCKY?
HOW?

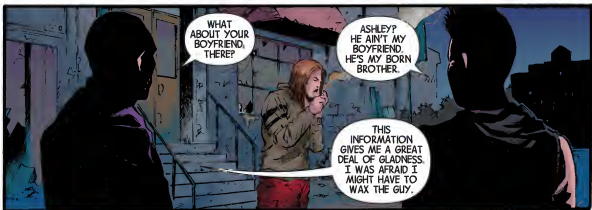
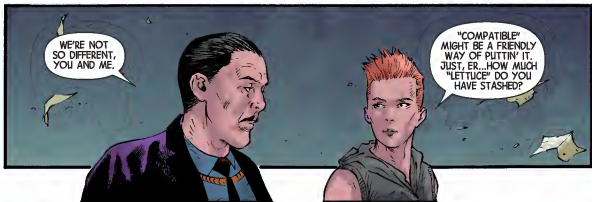
I HAVE MORE
MOUNTAINS OF
LETTUCE STASHED
AWAY.

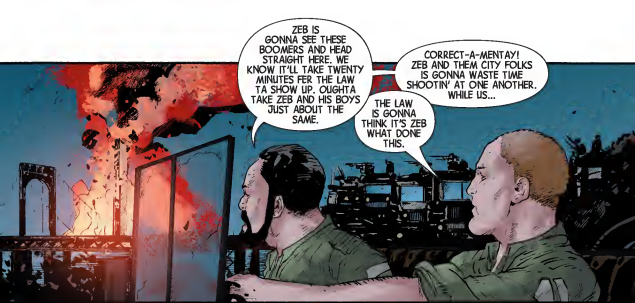
STASHED
AWAY?

YES. ARE YOU
INTERESTED?

BE LYIN'
IF I SAID I
WASN'T.

I HAVE
KNOWN ALL
ALONG THAT
YOU WERE ALL
ABOUT THE
LETTUCE.





ZEB IS
GONNA SEE THESE
BOOMERS AND HEAD
STRAIGHT HERE. WE
KNOW IT'LL TAKE TWENTY
MINUTES FER THE LAW
TA SHOW UP. OUGHTA
TAKE ZEB AND HIS BOYS
JUST ABOUT THE
SAME.

THE LAW
IS GONNA
THINK IT'S ZEB
WHAT DONE
THIS.

CORRECT-A-MENTAY!
ZEB AND THEM CITY FOLKS
IS GONNA WASTE TIME
SHOOTIN' AT ONE ANOTHER.
WHILE US...



...US IS
GONNA BE
WAY OUT IN
FRONT OF 'EM.
DROPPIN'
BOMBS AND
MAKIN' 'EM
CHASE US ALL
THE WAY.



ALL THE
WAY TO
WHERE?

I KNEW
YOU WAS
STUPID,
BUT...



...WHAT THE HELL
WE BEEN TALKIN'
ABOUT ALL THIS
TIME?

FED'RAL
RESERVE!

DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH MONEY
IS IN THERE, BUT IT'LL
CUT UP FIFTY WAYS
BETTER'N A HUNNERT.
TELL MOONRAKER.
TA HIT THE OTHER
TOWER.



TO BE CONTINUED...

